amount) was obtained from the Company before telecast of each film.

(d) Does not arise.

Introduction of 24-hour FM radio channel

†75. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken a decision to introduce a 24-hour FM radio channel during last year;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the same, so far; and

(c) by when Government would like to introduce the broadcasting of such channel alongwith the number of hours during which the news will be broadcast?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) In July 1999, the Government had taken a decision to open FM Radio Broadcasting Service to the private sector.

(b) Tenders were invited in October 1999 for 40 centres, in Phase I. Letters of intent were issued to 26 companies in August 2000. 16 companies have signed the agreement and submitted Bank Guarantee. One FM Radio Station at Bangalore started operation recently.

(c) The Programme Content for private FM broadcasts excludes news and current affairs and covers only areas like music entertainment, information and education.

Films funded by the Ministry

76. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of films funded by her Ministry during the last two years to create social awareness;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.